Gulf of Khambat Marine Archaeological Site – a Study

*S.Kathiroli, *S. Badrinarayanan, *D.V.Rao, *B. Sasisekaran, *S.Ramesh

Abstract

Geophysical and geological investigations carried out by the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, in the year 2000-2001, showed regular geometric patterns and Palaeochannel like features traceable over a length of 9km above west of Hazira, which are not expected in a marine domain. To probe it further samples were collected through grab, dredge and core. The samples collected revealed the presence of human vestiges submerged under current marine environment. The artefacts include pottery pieces, hearth material carbonised wood and a bifacial scraper of upper Palaeolithic period. The artefacts were sent for ^{14}C and TL dating to various institutions in India and abroad. The ^{14}C dates derived indicated an age of 9544 BP to 8450BP, while the TL date on pottery piece gave an age determinant of 13ka± 2000 years BP and the hearth material an age of 10.1ka ± 1500years BP. More detailed survey in the subsequent years revealed two Palaeochannel in the Gulf of Cambay one on the northern side adjoining Suvali and Hazira in the south. The Palaeochannel is seen to be aligned roughly WNW-ESE direction with little course variation here and there. At places this was seen for maximum width of about 300m. The archaeological materials are found on both sides of the Palaeochannel and on its extension on the east and west. The geological and archaeological sampling in the Palaeochannel adjoining Suvali brought to light various litho logical features of the area besides archaeological artefacts. Few tools have been located very much to the southwest and which has to been seen whether these indicate the presence of the Palaeochannel in this area. The overall location map of the archaeological artefacts collected indicates the riverine nature of the early settlers. Artefacts collected include pottery pieces, micro tools, wattle and daub construction material, hearth material, beads etc. The TL and OSL determinant of the artefacts indicate a period ranging from 9600 BP to 3500BP.

---

*NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEAN TECHNOLOGY, CHENNI